

CLAIMS

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or right is claimed are defined as follows. Having thus described the invention
5 what is claimed is:

1. A toggle switch cover apparatus, comprising:

a bushing for a toggle switch, wherein said bushing comprises a
10 threaded area and an uppermost unthreaded area, wherein said uppermost
unthreaded area comprises a maximum outside diameter that is less than a
corresponding minor diameter of threads of a mounting nut; and

a mounting nut surrounding said uppermost unthreaded area of said
15 bushing, wherein a gap is formed between said mounting nut and said
bushing, thereby promoting proper alignment of said toggle switch thereof
and decreasing cross-threading issues.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said toggle switch further comprises
20 a toggle, wherein a portion of said toggle is surrounded by said mounting nut
and said bushing.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said mounting nut is positionable on
said bushing in said uppermost unthreaded area thereof in a plane
25 perpendicular to an axis of said bushing prior to a threading of said mounting
nut onto said bushing

4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said bushing comprises a plurality
of threads for engaging corresponding mating threads of said mounting nut.

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5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said corresponding minor diameter
of threads of said mounting nut comprises a minimum minor diameter of said

threads of said mounting nut.

6. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said toggle comprises a tab lever.

5 7. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said toggle comprises a pull-to-unlock lever.

8. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said toggle switch comprises a 2-position toggle switch.

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9. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said toggle switch comprises a 3-positon toggle switch.

10. A toggle switch cover apparatus, comprising:

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a toggle switch comprising a toggle;

a bushing associated with said toggle switch, wherein said bushing comprises a threaded area and an uppermost unthreaded area, wherein said
20 uppermost unthreaded area comprises a maximum outside diameter that is less than a corresponding minimum minor diameter of threads of a mounting nut;

a mounting nut surrounding said uppermost unthreaded area of said
25 bushing, wherein a gap is formed between said mounting nut and said bushing and a portion of said toggle is surrounded by said mounting nut and said bushing; and

wherein said mounting nut is positionable on said bushing in said
30 uppermost unthreaded area thereof in a plane perpendicular to an axis of said bushing prior to a threading of said mounting nut onto said bushing, thereby promoting proper alignment of said toggle switch thereof and

decreasing cross-threading issues.

11. A toggle switch cover method, comprising:

5 providing a bushing for a toggle switch, wherein said bushing comprises a threaded area and an uppermost unthreaded area, wherein said uppermost unthreaded area comprises a maximum outside diameter that is less than a corresponding minor diameter of threads of a mounting nut; and

10 locating a mounting nut about said uppermost unthreaded area of said bushing, wherein a gap is formed between said mounting nut and said bushing, thereby promoting proper alignment of said toggle switch thereof and decreasing cross-threading issues.

15 12. The method of claim 11 wherein said toggle switch further comprises a toggle, wherein a portion of said toggle is surrounded by said mounting nut and said bushing.

20 13. The method of claim 11 further comprising positioning said mounting nut on said bushing in said uppermost unthreaded area thereof in a plane perpendicular to an axis of said bushing prior to a threading of said mounting nut onto said bushing

25 14. The method of claim 11 wherein said bushing comprises a plurality of threads for engaging corresponding mating threads of said mounting nut.

15. The method of claim 11 wherein said corresponding minor diameter of threads of said mounting nut comprises a minimum minor diameter of said threads of said mounting nut.

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16. The method of claim 12 wherein said toggle comprises a tab lever.

17. The method of claim 12 wherein said toggle comprises a pull-to-unlock lever.
18. The method of claim 11 wherein said toggle switch comprises a 2-
5 position toggle switch.
19. The method of claim 11 wherein said toggle switch comprises a 3-positon toggle switch.
- 10 20. The method of claim 11 further comprising configuring said bushing to comprise a diameter in a range of at least $\frac{1}{4}$ inches to $\frac{15}{32}$ inches.